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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine  
Washington, D. C.

February 14, 1938

INFORMATION ON PROCEDURE AND PLAN OF OPERATION FOR COOPERATIVE  
GRASSHOPPER CONTROL FOR THE CROP YEAR OF 1938

An allotment from the unexpended balance of funds appropriated last season for the control of incipient and emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases, including grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and chinch bugs, enables the Department, through the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, to inaugurate preliminary cooperation with affected States in undertaking the protection of crops against emergency outbreaks of grasshoppers that may occur during 1938.

Field headquarters for these activities are being established at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Representatives of the Bureau will confer with the appropriate officials of the affected States relative to the setting up of control organizations and to the procurement and distribution of initial supplies of bait materials to augment materials carried over from the last season and now in storage in the several States, in order that poisoning operations may be started when grasshoppers begin to hatch.

Efforts to protect crops against grasshoppers in past years have been severely handicapped due to the absence of desirable preliminary work and to other unavoidable delays. It is hoped that by the earlier instituting of field activities, such difficulties will be eliminated during the coming season.

This statement gives information regarding plans and procedure for this preliminary work and also throughout the season with such additional funds as may be available for the control of grasshoppers.

State Grasshopper Control Committee

In the cooperative efforts to control widespread outbreaks of grasshoppers, the Department proposes to utilize the existing Federal and State agencies within the several States, including the Agricultural Extension Service, the State College of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Experiment Station, the State crop pest regulatory official, and the State Department of Agriculture. For the purpose of coordinating State agencies, each State desiring Federal aid in grasshopper control shall establish a committee which should include representatives of these





agencies, such committee to be known as the State Grasshopper Control Committee. Existing State grasshopper control committees will be recognized but the list of personnel comprising such committees should be submitted, with any desired change in personnel, for approval.

#### Duties of the State Grasshopper Control Committee

The State Grasshopper Control Committee shall designate a trained entomologist or State agricultural official, satisfactory to the committee and to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, to act as its duly authorized representative in the capacity of State Leader in grasshopper control and to be responsible to such committee for:

1. Receiving requests for aid from counties, judging their merits and using them for the basis of deciding on the amount of Federal aid needed, and forwarding such requests to the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.
2. The responsibility for the supervision of grasshopper control leaders in the counties to which Federal aid is extended; such work to be in cooperation with such supervisors of the United States Department of Agriculture as may be assigned to the State.
3. The State Leader shall designate a County Leader in grasshopper control (usually the county agricultural agent), and when deemed necessary, shall provide, at State or county expense, an assistant county leader who will work full time in directing grasshopper control in each county receiving Federal aid.

The County Leader and his authorized assistants shall direct and supervise grasshopper control campaigns in his county; such work to be under the joint direction of the State Leader and his authorized assistants and in accordance with the program and methods approved by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

4. The State Leader shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) That County Leaders are furnished, at State or county expense, with office space, necessary clerical help, and facilities for the local truck transportation of bait materials and of county personnel.



- (b) That provision is made for the adequate storage and the prompt unloading of all grasshopper bait materials shipped by the Federal Government for local use.
- (c) The establishment of a sufficient number of well-equipped and adequately supervised bait mixing stations so that the bait material received from the Federal Government can be properly mixed or safely stored until needed.
- (d) That provision will be made in the county to keep an accurate record of all the bait materials shipped for local consumption by the Federal Government and an individual record of the quantities of bait delivered to farmers.
- (e) That the distribution and application of mixed bait within a county is effected in a manner approved by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

#### How to Apply for Federal Aid

When it has been determined by responsible State agencies and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine that grasshoppers occur in a State, or localities in such State, in outbreak numbers of economic importance to such an extent that control cannot be accomplished by efforts of local communities, counties, or the State and that Federal assistance is necessary in combatting such outbreaks, such States shall set up a grasshopper control organization as above outlined and shall furnish the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, for consideration and approval, the following information:

1. A statement setting forth the proposed organization, furnishing the names of the State Grasshopper Control Committee and the proposed State Leader and giving a definite statement as to the cooperation that State and county agencies are prepared to contribute.
2. A list of the counties which are prepared to meet the requirements for Federal aid, together with a statement of the quantity of mixed bait or bait materials on hand and the quantity of additional bait materials that may







be needed in case the infestation develops according to 1937 grasshopper survey estimates. Mixed bait, bran, and sawdust should be listed in tons; sodium arsenite in gallons; crude arsenic in pounds.

#### Federal Plans for Operation

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine will be responsible for carrying out the functions of the United States Department of Agriculture in the cooperative effort for grasshopper control. The field project leader and supervisory staff, designated by that Bureau, will work in close cooperation with the State and county grasshopper leaders. The general plan will be for the Department to supply bait materials found to be suitable by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. These materials will be delivered by the Federal Government to railroad destinations which have been designated by the State Leader. Counties will be made responsible to the State Grasshopper Control Committee, through the State Leader, for receiving and storing supplies until needed and for transporting them to mixing stations where they will be made into bait by mixing crews supervised by duly authorized supervisors, all provided by the State or county. If States or counties make a charge to farmers to cover the cost of mixing operations, such charge shall in no case exceed actual mixing cost after delivery at the mixing plant and cost of materials purchased by others than the Federal Government. Each farmer and landowner shall be free to mix his allotted bait under supervision at a central mixing station, in which case no State or county charge shall be made. No bran purchased by the Federal Government and unmixed with poison shall be delivered to farmers for home mixing, and any sodium arsenite delivered to farmers for mixing with bran not provided by the Federal Government shall be placed in a container plainly marked to indicate that it is a deadly poison. Every precaution should be taken to prevent arsenical injury to mixing crews and other persons. It is expressly understood that the Federal Government will not be held liable for any purported damages incidental to grasshopper control activities.

#### Cooperative Action Needed

In order to conserve and most effectively use the bait materials provided by the Federal Government, grasshopper control should be conducted on a county, township, community or pest control district basis rather than as an individual undertaking. The practice of furnishing free bait from a central supply and leaving the responsibility for its correct distribution



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and application entirely to the individual is ineffective and wasteful. Under such a system, some farmers may use more than they need, others may not use enough, or the application may be improperly timed or poorly applied. Some may kill all the grasshoppers hatching on their own farms only to have their crops later destroyed by migrating grasshoppers from the fields of neighbors where control has been ineffectively done. Most effective results may be expected only when well organized and supervised work is conducted early in the season before the grasshoppers are winged, and it is of vital importance that poisoning operations be extended to highway and railroad right-of-ways and uncultivated land adjacent to crops.

It is urged that the County Leader organize his county on a township, community, or pest control district basis. To accomplish this, organizational meetings will be necessary previous to actual poisoning operations and close supervision will be necessary during the active poisoning season. In counties having large control campaigns it will be necessary, in order to secure maximum efficiency, that the County Leader have competent assistants who will devote full time to supervising, mixing, distributing, and applying the bait. Failure of counties, or subdivisions thereof, to organize for cooperative grasshopper control, after necessary information and opportunity have been given by the State or County Leaders and by Federal supervisors cooperating with such State or County Leaders, or failure to follow approved practices and methods, will be considered sufficient reason for not allotting materials to such counties or for refusing requests for grasshopper bait received from individuals living in subdivisions thereof.

LEE A. STRONG (s)

Chief, Bureau of Entomology and  
Plant Quarantine

Approved:

H. A. WALLACE (s)

Secretary of Agriculture

February 14, 1938.

(Date)

